

Application No. 10/607,084
Response dated August 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 28, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The T-nut as defined in claim 19 [[1 or 2]], wherein said tubular shank portion includes:

a stepped portion formed at a given axial position of said tubular shank portion;

a tubular upper portion extending from said second end to said stepped portion; and

an enlarged tubular lower portion extending from said stepped portion to said flange portion, said lower portion having an outer diameter greater than that of said upper portion.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The T-nut as defined in claim 19 [[1 or 2]], wherein the outer peripheral surface of said tubular shank portion has a shape gradually expanding from said second end toward said first end.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The T-nut as defined in claim 19 [[1 or 2]], wherein said tubular shank portion includes a crimpable portion extending from said second end by a given length.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The T-nut as defined in claim 5, wherein said crimpable portion of said tubular shank portion has an inner diameter greater than that of said internally threaded portion, and an outer diameter greater than that of said internally threaded portion.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The T-nut as defined in claim 5, wherein the outer peripheral surface of said tubular shank portion includes an annular concave groove formed therein in the vicinity of the boundary between said crimpable portion and said internally threaded portion.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The T-nut as defined in claim 19 [[1 or 2]], wherein said flange portion is formed with a protrusion extending toward said second end.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The T-nut as defined in claim 19[[3]], further comprising ~~wherein the outer peripheral portion of said flange is formed with~~ a plurality of pawls extending from said first end toward said second end.

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Claim 10 (currently amended): The T-nut as defined in claim 20[[2]], wherein said pawls are formed in a jagged shape.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The T-nut as defined in claim 20[[2]], wherein said pawls are formed in a hook shape.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The T-nut as defined in claim 19[[1]], wherein said flange portion has an approximately circular shape.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): The T-nut as defined in claim 20[[2]], wherein said flange portion has a longitudinal length greater than the lateral length thereof.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The T-nut as defined in claim 20[[2]], wherein said flange portion has a longitudinal length equal to the lateral length thereof.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The T-nut as defined in claim 20[[2]], wherein said flange portion has a longitudinal length less than the lateral length thereof.

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Claim 17 (currently amended): The T-nut as defined in claim 19 [[1 or 2]], which has a space formed between said internally threaded portion and said bottom-sealing member.

Claim 18 (cancel)

Claim 19 (new): A T-nut comprising:

a tubular shank portion having a first end and a second end opposing to said first end, said tubular shank portion having a threaded portion formed at an inside surface thereof;

a flange portion extending outward from said first end of said tubular shank portion; and

a bottom-sealing portion closing said first end of said tubular shank portion,

wherein the T-nut is made of a metal material and formed integrally, and wherein the bottom-sealing portion formed integrally with the flange portion has an outside surface having a convex portion.

Claim 20 (new): The T-nut as defined in claim 19, wherein the outside surface of the bottom-sealing portion, which is integrally formed with the flange portion, has a circular pattern.

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Claim 21 (new): The T-nut as defined in claim 19, wherein the outside surface of the bottom-sealing portion, which is integrally formed with the flange portion, has a concentric circular pattern.

Claim 22 (new): The T-nut as defined in claim 19, wherein the flange portion is approximately octagonal.

Claim 23 (new): The T-nut as defined in claim 19, further comprising a plurality of pawls extending in parallel from an outer peripheral portion of said flange portion in the direction from said first end to said second end.